MARVEL KNIGHTS
THE SENTRY
4
FANTASTIC FOUR
MARVEL COMICS
JENKINS
WINSLADE
PALMER
WWW.MARVEL.COM
PHIL WIN ADE

THIS USED TO BE AN ADVENTURE.

IT USED TO BE...BACK IN THE GLORY DAYS WHEN THERE WERE A LOT LESS HEROES AND VILLAINS. BACK BEFORE THINGS WENT SOUR.
BEFORE YOU'D EVER EVEN HEARD OF THE VOID.
BUT THEN THE CREATURE CAME UPON YOU ALL -- AS BLACK AS THE DARKEST NIGHT, AS COLD AS ICE -- TO RAVAGE THE EARTH AND STEAL THE SOULS OF MEN. IT ALMOST DESTROYED YOU THE LAST TIME.
AND NOW IT'S RETURNED, STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. YOU AND YOUR COMRADES CAN ONLY WAIT FOR THE BEAST TO COME TO SHORE... AND TRY TO HIDE YOUR REGRET THAT THE BATTLE IS ALREADY LOST.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO -- ONLY THE SENTRY CAN SAVE YOU NOW.
HE IS HUMANITY'S ONLY HOPE.

ADMIT IT, REED: HE'S ALL YOU HAVE.
YOU AND THE OTHER HEROES, YOU'LL DO WHAT YOU CAN WHEN THE VOID ATTACKS.
BUT IT WON'T BE NEARLY ENOUGH.
AND SO YOU LOOK TO HIM -- THE BEST FRIEND YOU EVER HAD.
THE SAME MAN YOU BETRAYED AND CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION...
...ALONG WITH ALL MEMORY OF THOSE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES YOU SHARED.
PAUL JENKINS STORY
PHIL WINSLADE PENCILS
TOM PALMER INKS
STARTLING STORIES featuring THE SENTRY!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
15
THE SENTRY... WHERE DID HE GO?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE SENTRY -- A COWARD!
THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE GOLDEN GUARDIAN, DEFEATED BY THE ANDROID PIRATES OF DIMENSION NINE?
TOM CHU COLORS
RS & COMICRAFT LETTERS
MIKE RAICHT ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE MARTS EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF

YOU GOTTA DO BETTER THAN THAT, YA METAL MORONS!
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
REED, WHAT HAPPENED? WHY DID SENTRY LEAVE US LIKE THAT?
I DON'T KNOW, DARLING...BUT IF I KNOW ROBERT, HE MUST HAVE HAD A GOOD REASON --
GOOD REASON, HUH? THE WAY I SEE IT, YOUR GOLDEN BOY TURNED TAIL AND RAN.
I ALWAYS TOLD YOU THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT GUY --
AVRUCK CLOSED

BLANNNG
HHH...SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, THING. I WAS JUST CREATING A DIVERSION --
REED -- I'VE ACCESSED THEIR MAIN TERMINAL.
OUR EXIT CODES ARE RECALIBRATED AND THE AUTOLOCKS DISENGAGED ON THE TRACTOR BEAMS.
OH, AND THIS PLACE IS GOING TO BLOW IN ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS --
YOU SEE THAT, BEN? HE WENT AROUND THE OTHER WAY AND TOOK 'EM ALL OUT IN ONE MOVE! AN' HE HACKED THEIR COMPUTERS! I TOLD YOU HE WAS THE BEST --
YEAH, YEAH... WHATEVER YOU SAY, KID --
-- BUT WE AIN'T OUTTA THE WOODS YET!

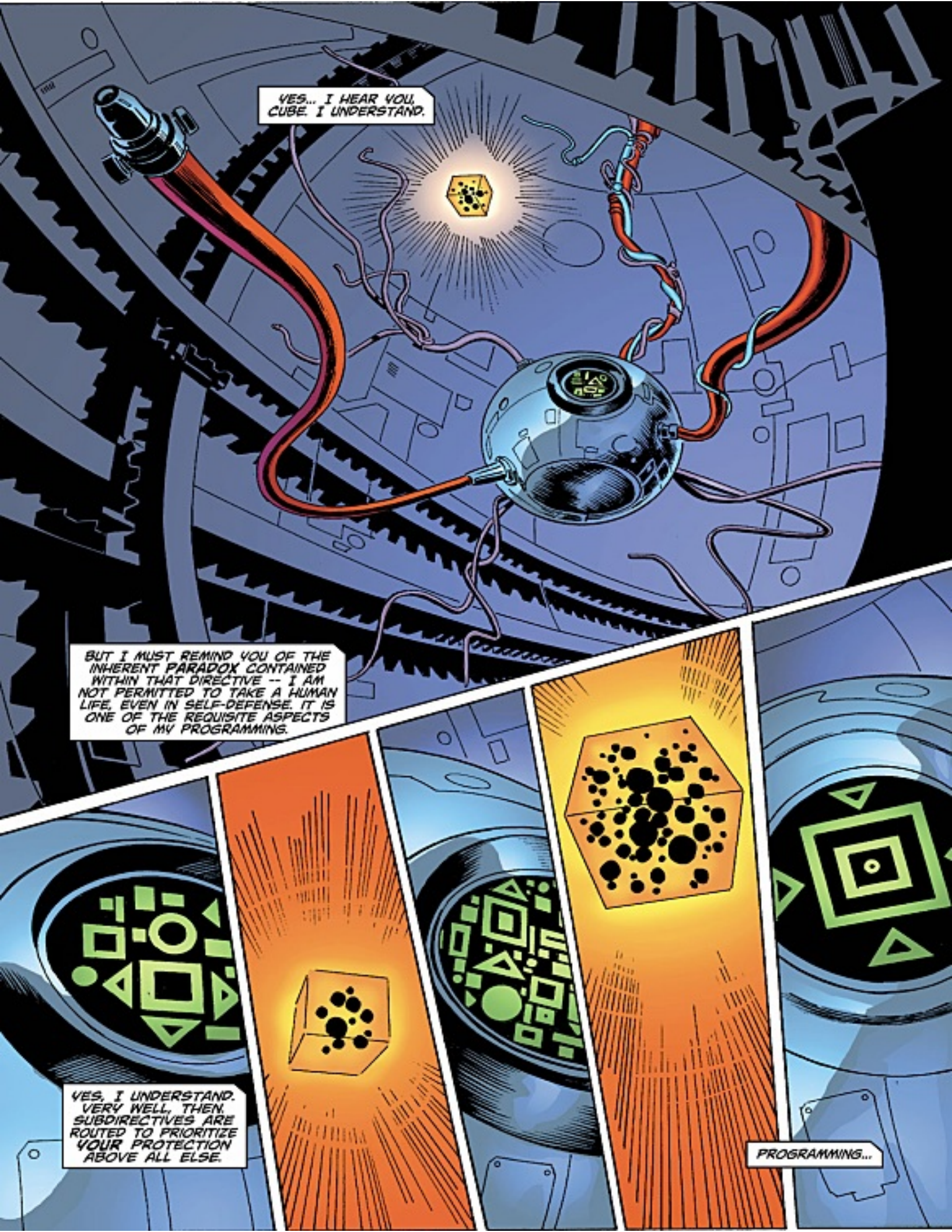
GET MOVING -- I'LL HOLD THEM OFF. I KNOW HOW MOST OF THEIR ATTACK VECTORS ARE PROGRAMMED.
DON'T ARGUE -- JUST DO IT!
BLOCK OPEN
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE'S RIGHT. IF WE CAN'T GET THE INFORMATION WE'VE RECOVERED BACK TO EARTH, WE'RE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY.
OKAY, WE'RE GREEN LIGHT ON ALL SYSTEMS AN' READY TO ROLL. YOU COPY THAT, SIS?
HEY, IT DON'T MEAN NUTHIN' IF THE TRACTOR BEAM'S STILL WORKIN' --
HE DID IT! WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
BUH-WHOOM

ALWAYS IN THE NICK OF TIME -- THE SENTRY HAD A WAY OF WORKING IT JUST PERFECTLY LIKE THAT.
YOU'D BE CERTAIN HE WAS GONE AND YOU'D BEGIN TO EXHALE... AND HE'D BE BACK AS IF NOTHING UNUSUAL HAD HAPPENED, HIS CAPE SINGED, HIS FACE BLACKENED WITH SOOT, AND THAT LOOK IN HIS EYE.
OR MAYBE IT JUST SEEMS THAT WAY. MAYBE IT'S JUST WISHFUL THINKING ON YOUR PART.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU COULD ACTUALLY SAY YOU ENJOYED WHAT YOU DO, REED? SO MUCH TIME HAS PASSED... THERE ARE SO MANY MORE COMPLICATIONS THESE DAYS.
BUT NOW, THERE'S ONE COMPLICATION MORE PROFOUND THAN ANY OTHER:
THE VOID IS COMING BACK. AND WITH HIM, THE END OF THE WORLD.
WHY COULDN'T THINGS HAVE REMAINED THE WAY THEY WERE?

THE GOLDEN GUARDIAN STRUGGLES TO CONTAIN THE COSMIC CUBE, BUT THE ENIGMATIC MACHINE REMAINS SILENT, UNWILLING TO YIELD ITS SECRETS.
REED -- I'VE GOT IT STABILIZED BUT EVEN I CAN'T HOLD IT MUCH LONGER. MY ARMS ARE GOING NUMB!
TRY TO STAY WITH IT, ROBERT. IF WE CAN CONTAIN THE CUBE FOR STUDY, THIS WILL BE THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF THE CENTURY --
HH-AHH!
JUST... ONE MORE... SECOND...
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG "IF," OLD FRIEND. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING -- I CAN FEEL IT PULSATING!

CLOC: LOCATE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE CUBE, PLEASE.
THE COSMIC CUBE IS CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THE MAIN CONTROL ROOM ON ALPHA LEVEL.
ALPHA LEVEL -- BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE TRAVELED THAT FAST BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS.
ROBERT, IF IT'S UP THERE IT MIGHT BE GOING FOR YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS --
CLOC: KEEP A MONITOR ON THE CUBE AND SEND DOWN THE TURBAVATOR, QUICKLY! WE NEED TO GET UP THERE AS FAST AS WE CAN.
FOOSH
I'M SORRY, ROBERT -- I CANNOT PERMIT YOU TO DO THAT.

SUE... JOHNNY --!
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, CHIEF!
JOHNNY -- I'VE CONTAINED THE EXPLOSIONS INSIDE A LOCALIZED FORCE FIELD, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CAUTERIZE THE BLAST AND CHANGE THE STRUCTURE OF THE PLASMA.
NO PROB, SIS. BIG GUY... IF YOU *PLEASE*?
MY *PLEASURE*, SQUIRT!
WHAM
WELL, REED, OLD FRIEND, I HOPE YOU'RE NOT AS CLEVER AS YOU THINK YOU ARE.
HMM? WHY'S THAT?
'CAUSE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET PAST CLOC'S AUTO-DEFENSE MECHANISM IF WE WANT TO GET TO ALPHA LEVEL. AND YOU DESIGNED THEM TO BE IMPREGNABLE -- EVEN BY *ME*.

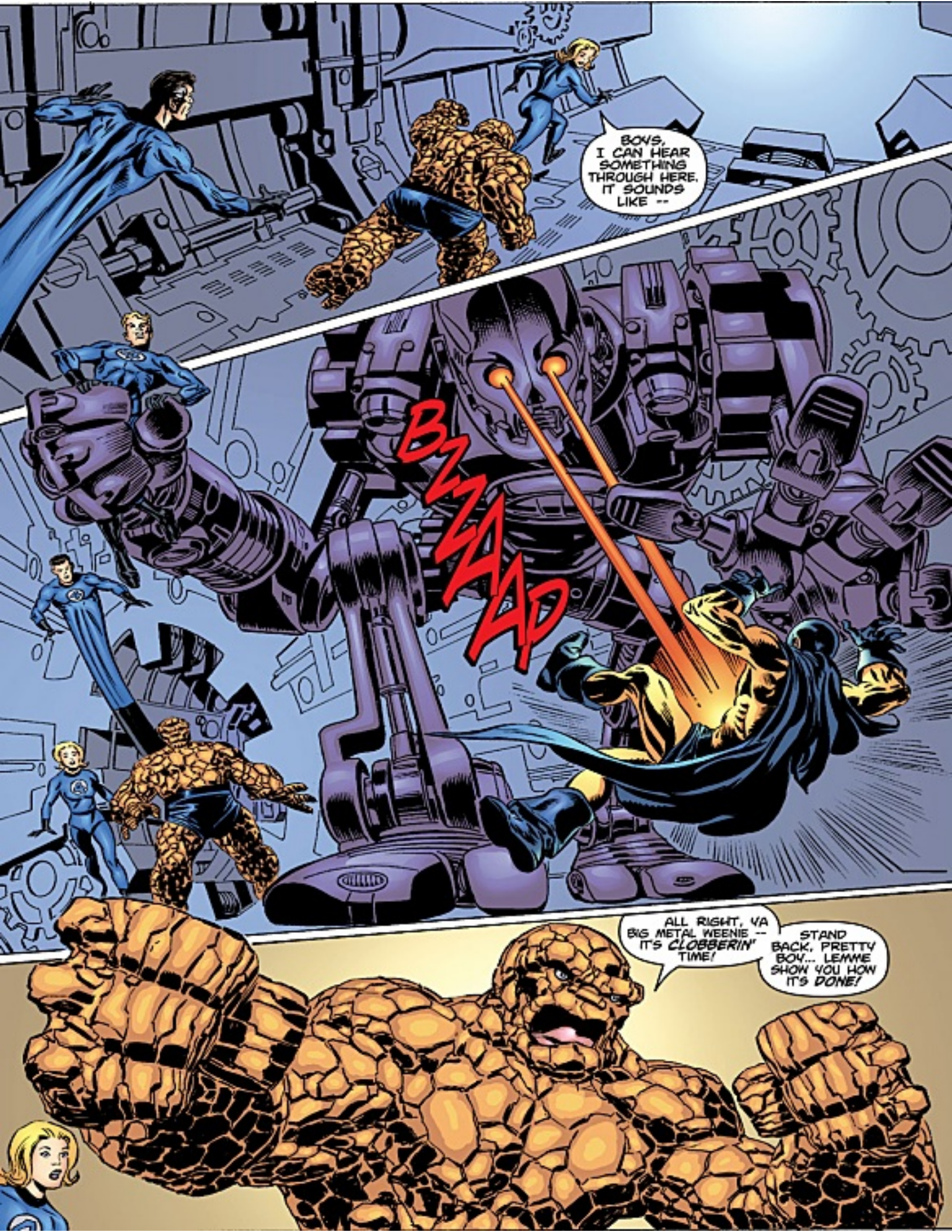

YES... I HEAR YOU, CUBE. I UNDERSTAND.
BUT I MUST REMIND YOU OF THE INHERENT **PARADOX** CONTAINED WITHIN THAT DIRECTIVE -- I AM NOT PERMITTED TO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE, EVEN IN SELF-DEFENSE. IT IS ONE OF THE REQUISITE ASPECTS OF MY PROGRAMMING.
YES, I UNDERSTAND. VERY WELL, THEN. SUBDIRECTIVES ARE ROUTED TO PRIORITIZE **YOUR** PROTECTION ABOVE ALL ELSE.
PROGRAMMING...

CLOC: COME IN... DO YOU READ ME? CLOC: THIS IS SENTRY... PLEASE RESPOND.
I DON'T LIKE IT, REED. CLOC'S CUT OFF ALL COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE OF THE MAIN TERMINAL AREA. HE'S TRANSMITTING... BUT NOT TO ME.
I THINK HE MUST BE TALKING TO THE CUBE.
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?
MY WORD... IT LOOKS LIKE NEGATIVE SPACE.
BUT IT CAN'T BE -- I DIDN'T BUILD THAT INTO THE DESIGN --

I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET PAST THIS BARRIER, BOYS AND GIRLS.
WAIT... SOMETHING'S H-UKK!
SENTRY!
KRASH
ROBERT... YOU MADE ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH AN EXTENSION OF N-SPACE!
I HAVE TO ASK... WHAT DID IT FEEL LIKE --?
INTERESTING.
PAINFUL.

AND THAT WAS HIM IN A NUTSHELL -- HALF HERO, HALF SCIENCE GEEK.
THAT IMPOSSIBLE FORTITUDE OF HIS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR UNDERSTANDING THE UNIVERSE AROUND HIM -- IT WAS WHY YOU AND HE BECAME FRIENDS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HE WAS A HERO LONG BEFORE YOU AND THE OTHER'S GAINED YOUR POWERS, OF COURSE. BUT THAT WAS NEVER A BARRIER BETWEEN YOU -- NEITHER BEFORE NOR AFTER.
ALL THOSE NIGHTS THE TWO OF YOU SPENT DISCUSSING THE NATURE OF THE COSMOS, TAKING APART COMPUTER TERMINALS, ACTING LIKE CURIOUS KIDS. ALL THOSE TIMES YOU FACED DANGER TOGETHER.
AND THE GOOD TIMES, TOO. THAT TIME YOU, ROBERT, LINDY AND SUE SPENT UP IN THE CABIN IN MAINE. THAT MARVELOUS AFTERNOON WHEN HE AND LINDY WERE MARRIED UNDER THE GAZE OF FIFTY HEROES.
YOU MOURN FOR THOSE TIMES, DON'T YOU, REED?
BECAUSE WHEN YOU LOST THE SENTRY, YOU LOST ONE OF YOUR FAMILY.

ASTOUNDING! THIS PLACE IS LIKE SOME KIND OF WEIRD MAZE!
REED, WE'VE LOST JOHNNY! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, DARLING. I'LL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR HIM IN THE MEANTIME, SEE IF YOU CAN RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH SENTRY --
YEAH... WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM THAT SPRAY-PAINTED CLOWN'S THE ONE THAT GOT US IN THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE --
WHY, BEN GRIMM... YOU'RE STILL NOT JEALOUS, ARE YOU?
I FOUND IT! CLEAR SAILING UP AHEAD!
TORCH -- LOOK OUT!

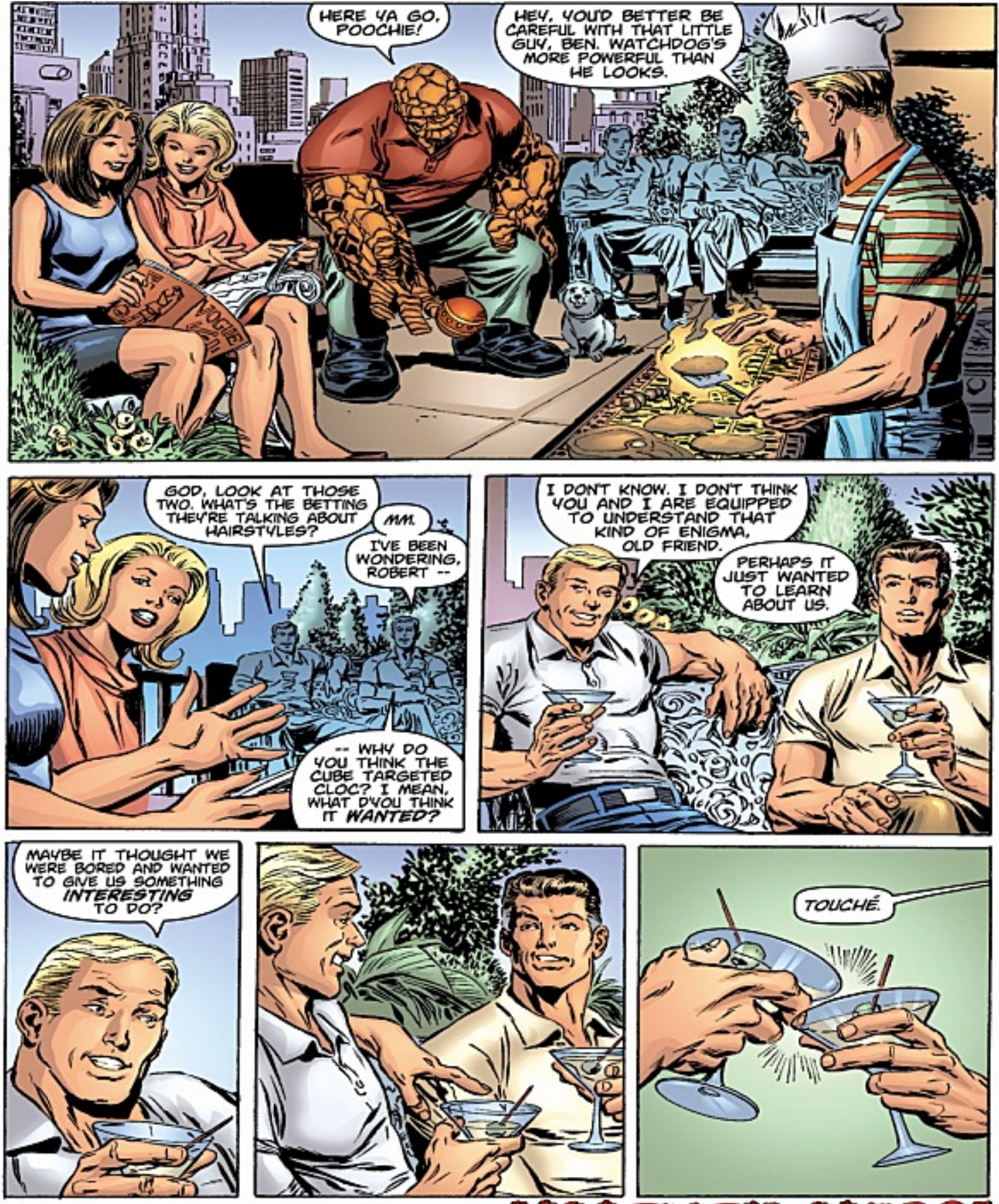

BOYS, I CAN HEAR SOMETHING THROUGH HERE. IT SOUNDS LIKE --
BZZAAP
ALL RIGHT, YA BIG METAL WEENIE -- IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
STAND BACK, PRETTY BOY... LEMME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!

GOD. WHAT A CRAZY TIME. THAT AFTERNOON, YOU AND THE OTHERS PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS TO GET THROUGH THE WATCHTOWER UNSCATHED.
THERE'S A PLACE -- ATHLETES CALL IT "THE ZONE" -- IT'S SOME KIND OF HYPEREXTENSION OF LOGIC WHERE EVERYTHING BEGINS TO WORK SO SEAMLESSLY, YOU WONDER IF YOU WEREN'T JUST BORN FOR THE TASK AT THE MOMENT.
THE FIVE OF YOU FOUND THAT ZONE... RUSHING THROUGH THAT INCREDIBLE OBSTACLE COURSE TOGETHER -- WORKING IN TANDEM TO OVERCOME EVERY CHALLENGE CLOC COULD THROW YOUR WAY.

IT WAS AN AWESOME DISPLAY OF COURAGE AND COMMON SENSE AND EVEN DUMB LUCK -- ALL COMBINING TO CREATE A SENSE OF INVINCIBILITY. YOU NEVER REALLY IMAGINED ANYONE WAS GOING TO GET HURT.
EVEN BEN, FOR ALL HIS GRUMBLING ABOUT THE SENTRY, BECAME CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT. ONE MINUTE, HE'D BE PULLING EVERYONE'S CANS OUT OF THE FIRE... THE NEXT, SOMEONE WOULD BE SAVING HIS.
YOU CAN REMEMBER LAUGHING TO YOURSELF ABOUT THAT BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS THE WAY IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE:
ONWARD AND UPWARD FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.

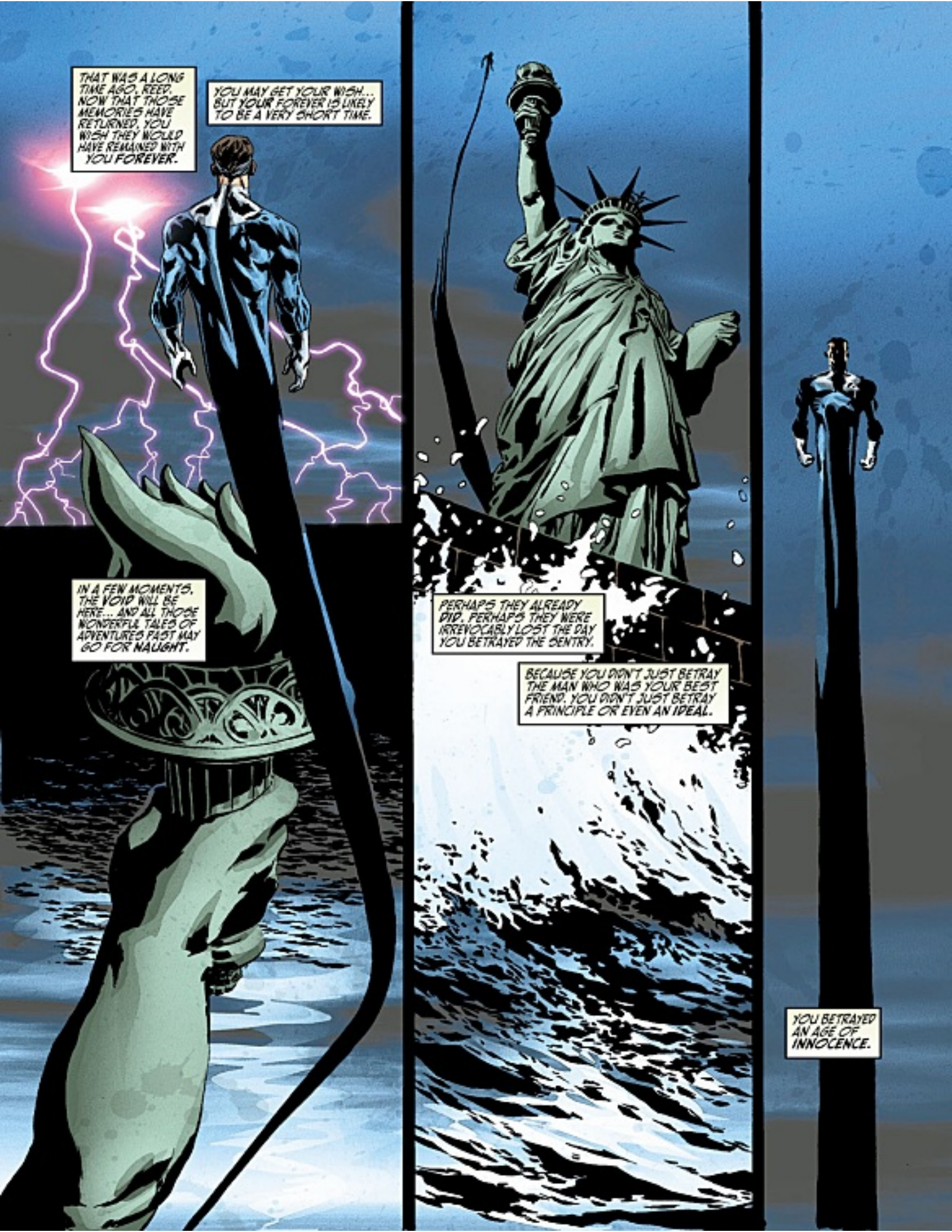
THERE IT IS. WHAT IS IT DOING?
ROBERT, I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT. IT'S NO SECRET YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE PENTAGON FROM HERE.
IF THE CUBE HAS USED CLOC TO ACCESS THOSE SENSITIVE MILITARY CODES --
ANY TIME WE WASTE HERE CHATTING ABOUT IT IS TIME WE SHOULD HAVE SPENT DOING SOMETHING INSTEAD.
ROBERT, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE WILLING TO TAKE THAT RISK!
REED -- YOU REMEMBER YOU AND I TALKED ABOUT USING THE E-NULLIFIER AGAINST THE CUBE --
...I CAN ALSO REMEMBER US DECIDING THAT USING THE E-NULLIFIER AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SUICIDE.
WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE TRIED.
THEN LET'S FIND OUT.
-- TO HARNESS ITS INCONSISTENCIES AT A QUANTUM LEVEL --?
YES, WELL...
REED, FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE DON'T ARGUE WITH ME, OKAY? IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

SENTRY, BE CAREFUL. YOU CAN ONLY TAKE SO MUCH OF THE RESIDUAL FEED-BACK FROM THE E-NULLIFIER--
-- BEFORE YOUR CHEMICAL STRUCTURE IS ALTERED!
ZZKOW
BA WAM
NNOWWW... YYOOUUU... TELLL... MMMEEE --!
GREETINGS, SENTRY. GREETINGS, FANTASTIC FOUR. I HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING THE MOST CURIOUS PHENOMENA IN YOUR ABSENCE.
HAVE I BEEN OFFLINE?


HERE YA GO, POOCHIE!
HEY, YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WITH THAT LITTLE GUY, BEN. WATCHDOG'S MORE POWERFUL THAN HE LOOKS.
GOD, LOOK AT THOSE TWO. WHAT'S THE BETTING THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT HAIRSTYLES?
MM.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING, ROBERT --
-- WHY DO YOU THINK THE CUBE TARGETED CLOC? I MEAN, WHAT D'YOU THINK IT WANTED?
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T THINK YOU AND I ARE EQUIPPED TO UNDERSTAND THAT KIND OF ENIGMA, OLD FRIEND.
PERHAPS IT JUST WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT US.
MAYBE IT THOUGHT WE WERE BORED AND WANTED TO GIVE US SOMETHING INTERESTING TO DO?
TOUCHÉ.

TUNE IN **NEXT ISH**, TRUE BELIEVERS FOR ANOTHER AMAZING ADVENTURE AS WE UNCOVER THE **SECRET MENACE** OF: THE **MOLEMEN FROM MARS!**

('NUFF SAID!)


THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, REED. NOW THAT THOSE MEMORIES HAVE RETURNED, YOU WISH THEY WOULD HAVE REMAINED WITH YOU FOREVER.
YOU MAY GET YOUR WISH... BUT YOUR FOREVER IS LIKELY TO BE A VERY SHORT TIME.
IN A FEW MOMENTS, THE VOID WILL BE HERE... AND ALL THOSE WONDERFUL TALES OF ADVENTURES PAST MAY GO FOR NAUGHT.
PERHAPS THEY ALREADY DID. PERHAPS THEY WERE IRREVOCABLY LOST THE DAY YOU BETRAYED THE SENTRY.
BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T JUST BETRAY THE MAN WHO WAS YOUR BEST FRIEND. YOU DIDN'T JUST BETRAY A PRINCIPLE OR EVEN AN IDEAL.
YOU BETRAYED AN AGE OF INNOCENCE.